



Within the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, the **BEATRICE STATE DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER** provides 24-hour residential, medical, habilitative and consultative services for Nebraskans with mental retardation or related conditions.

BSDC VISION: *Best Support for Dignity and Choice: "Learning for Life."*

THRILL OF VICTORY!

BSDC hoopsters take silver in Special Olympics state tourney

Flush with victory from their win at the Special Olympics regional tournament on March 7, the BSDC basketball team prevailed again over a tough Lincoln team on March 28 to claim 2nd-place silver honors in the state basketball tournament. The regional event took place at Lincoln High School in the Capitol City, and the state final was held at Lincoln East High School.

"I was especially proud of individual performances and the way they played together as a team," says coach **Bill Clark**.

"Special Olympics participation enhances physical coordination, builds self-confidence, and fosters teamwork," says BSDC Recreation Director **Julie Belding**. "Competition at regional meets and on the state level also allows the athlete's family to see their achievements and share in their pride."

While the Special Olympics



BSDC basketball team members (left to right) Tony Robinson, Johnny Knight, Trevor Sherman, Robbie Shepard and John Hoelsing

Photo: _____

basketball season has ended, other regional events in skating and track and field will take place in late May, with the state level competition at Creighton University in Omaha May 20 through 23.

More Special Olympics
results on next page!



(At left) **Mark Poe** prepares to demonstrate his skill at putting the ball through the hoop that won him 7th-place regional recognition for individual basketball skills and 4th-place in the state games. (At right) **Bill Lux** gets ready to show his dribbling and passing techniques that earned him 2nd-place in regional b-ball and 4th at the state level. (Below) Among all-time winningest of BSDC athletes, **John Hoelsing** sports only some of the medals he earned in Special Olympic events over the years. He also has a large box full of other medals and ribbons too numerous to hang around his neck without falling over. Like other Special Olympics competitors, John knows that such success shows what folks can accomplish when they put their mind to it.

Photos: Jerry Crisp



The following editorial is from **James Plate**, former Center citizen who contributed to *Sower* for three years, edited a newsletter of his own for BSDC clients, and is now served by Mid-Nebraska Individual Services (MNIS) in Kearney. Thanks to MNIS Production Assistant **Kathy Quail**, James' articles continue to appear in *Sower*.

With a little help from my friends

I have often thought about me, and I know that you all have also, but this is my story about me, and maybe you will change your thoughts about me after hearing my side of it...or not.

I look at myself like most of you do. I am always right and those of you who disagree, well, you're wrong. I have new people that I work with now, and well, some of them put me in my place more than others.

Like I have learned the Everly Brothers' song, "All I Have To Do Is Dream." It's a good song and well, I guess that if I were a totally different person, all my dreams could come true, but maybe if I stay the same, they could still come true if some of you would just give me a break. I know...



James Plate
Photo: Roger Girch

Laugh Out Loud!

I know that I have come a long way since I moved here, but I also know that it is due to a few people getting me where I am now. Not to say that is good, they just won't let me get away with achieving my goal to be the same old me. Maybe they're right and just trying to make me a better person.

Time will tell.

From the Director

An article on page 12 of this *Sower* issue recognizes our fellow workers. I hope you will take time to read about those who have received this recognition.



John Wyvill
Photo: Bill Wiley

There is no higher honor that I can think of than to be recognized by your co-workers for contributions for the betterment of the individuals we serve. Celebrating successes such as this is an important part of the culture and responsibilities associated with working at BSDC.

I hope you will take the time to thank these individuals who have been recognized. In addition, please be thinking of and taking the opportunity to recognize the success of your co-workers in the future. Finally, I want to praise those who served on the committee to make these recognitions possible.

John Wyvill, Director
Division of Developmental Disabilities

BSDC Family and Friends Association seeks funds

The BSDC Family and Friends Association raises funds to purchase items tax dollars can't. More than 40 years old, the Association is incorporated and granted federal tax exemption.

Please send your donation to the BSDC Friends and Family Association in care of **Joel Bute** at 1126 North 150th Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68154. If you want more information about developing a trust for a person served that may ultimately benefit the BSDC Family and Friends Association, please contact Joel at the address above or call (402) 496-1686.

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Entrepreneurship helps create off-campus employment opportunities for Center citizens

There's a creative streak in Sheridan Industries, the small business on the BSDC campus that seeks to develop vocational skills of Center citizens and market their products and services. A couple of examples illustrate that point.

Generally considered the "resident artist," **David Courtney's** sketches adorn walls in several spots across campus. Now he is creating drawings that could grace an 18-month 2010 calendar.

Twenty years ago, David illustrated another calendar of mainly campus scenes, and there has been talk of doing another ever since.

Dan Sikyta, Community Employment Coordinator with Sheridan Industries, suggested that the current project should focus on historical sites throughout Gage County.

"I just thought, if David's drawings depicted scenes significant for citizens of Gage County, that might make the new calendar more marketable," Sikyta explains.

Some of the Gage County scenes that David will draw for the calendar project include an early settler's cabin at Homestead National Monument four miles west of Beatrice, Hotel Paddock in downtown Beatrice, the Wymore train station, a stone barn at Filley, Adams State Bank and the Rice Hospital at Odell.

Sikyta also arranged with the Beatrice Chamber of Commerce to



(Above) **ENTREPRENEUR AT WORK:** David Courtney sketches a Gage County historical site for a 2010 calendar; (Below l-r) David with Cindy and Gary Frerichs, owners of a pet supply business that markets David's Pet First Aid kit, and BSDC Community Employment Coordinator Dan Sikyta. *Photos: Jerry Crisp*



help sell and market the calendars David illustrates.

"The Gage County Fair in July would also be a great place to launch David's calendar," says Sikyta. "I hope the calendar does very well for his sake, of course, but even if not, he just enjoys doing it. Whenever he talks about it, he just can't seem to quit smiling."

But illustrating calendars is not the only business venture in which this enterprising entrepreneur is engaged. David also purchases, packages and sells his "Pet First Aid Kits." Priced at \$43.50, the kit of 16 items includes a thermometer, suture scissor, quick clot, antibiotic ointment, gauze pads and rolls, all in a nylon case.

Nancy Sedlacek, the Center's Vocational Services Coordinator, asked **Gary and Cindy Frerichs**, owners of Pup's Pet Supplies in Beatrice, to market David's kit through their Web site at <http://www.pupspetsupply.com/pProduct-Details.php?id=1634>. The Frerichs take no profit from the venture.

Another enterprising entrepreneur on campus is **Johnny Knight**, who recently started a canine waste removal operation. He has five customers at the moment and hopes to add many more. Sanitation makes cleaning up after pets necessary, especially for pet owners who might be ill, incapacitated or just willing to pay someone to clean up after their pets for them.

That's a niche Johnny hopes to fill to help keep the community clean and make a little extra money

in the process. His equipment includes a "pooper scooper," small rake and a bucket.

Asked if he minds doing this kind of work, Johnny says, "Not as long as they pay me!"

David and Johnny aren't the

job-finding network and mutual support group, and he has just completed facilitating one six-week session.

Another method is the Entrepreneur Club, by which Sikyta brings business speakers from the community to campus to talk with clients.

"I hope that having people come to talk about or show what they do might trigger some ideas," says Sikyta. "Topics have included scrapbooking and leather crafts, and we even had someone from the Chamber of Commerce."

Other Vocational Department members working to create job opportunities for BSDC clients are **Lois Oden**, coordinating on-campus employment, and **James Bush**, who procures contracts.

"For the past 22 years at Sheridan Industries, "Our Business is People," says Nancy Sedlacek. "We believe that everyone should have an opportunity for meaningful employment. We assist those individuals who work with us, building skills for potential employment that suit their personal interest and preferences."

It's said that American ingenuity is what made this nation an economic power and will restore it to greatness again, and that same creative impulse is alive and well at BSDC.



KNIGHT ON A CRUSADE: Armed with the proper tools of his trade, Johnny Knight ventures forth on a mission to cleanse the environment of doggie doo-doo. Photo: Jerry Crisp

only Center citizens who work off-campus jobs. Forty-four clients deliver newspapers and provide lawn care services.

Sikyta hopes to encourage additional off-campus employment opportunities through the BSDC Job Club. Job Clubs are an Internet

To help “unlock voices” for individuals with developmental disabilities, Sower offers this installment in a series of interviews with Center citizens.

Speaking for myself

The first thing that strikes you about **Linda Free** is her ready smile with which she greets every familiar face or stranger. About the only variation you’ll see is when she exchanges that smile for a hardy laugh.

Another thing about Linda is that she’s very much a family member. If she could have any wish granted, it would be to move home with mom. Since that’s not feasible, she’s lucky to have a very actively involved family. They also visit her often and take Linda home for visits to Omaha.

Linda also has high aspirations. If she could be anyone she wanted, she would choose **Snow White**. Asked if that was so that she could be a princess and meet a handsome prince or seven shorter gentleman, Linda buried her face in her hands and laughed.

If she couldn’t be Snow White, Linda would settle for visiting Disneyworld in Florida, where Snow White has often been sited.

Until wishing on a star produces a handsome prince, Linda has an eye on another Center citizen about whom she thinks highly. Until wishful thinking about a Disneyland trip produces results, she keeps busy with a couple of campus jobs packaging rings and bolts and folding laundry.

At her campus address, Linda also participates in family-style dining, in which she and her room-



Linda Free (right) flashes her signature smile, joined by Developmental Technician III Barbara Albasri. “She’s nearly always smiling, and I’ll testify to that,” says Barbara. Photo: Jerry Crisp

mates shop for groceries, cook and serve meals in whatever capacity they can contribute. Linda’s job is washing tables.

Linda is a regular churchgoer, attending services on Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday evenings on campus at the Chapel of All Faiths.

Linda also participates in BSDC Scouting and Special Olympics. Her specialties include swimming and wheelchair races, which she wins “once in a while.”

Linda’s standing wish to get together with her family as soon as

possible came true again in March when her mother, **Rosemary Free**, and sister, **Rita**, came to campus for a visit.

“We attend annual evaluations, quarterly team meetings, and just like to get together with Linda,” says Rita Free, a night nurse supervisor at the Creighton University Medical Center in Omaha. “We visit campus often, and Linda comes home for frequent visits.”

“Carstens Cafe is one of Linda’s favorite places on campus, and one

Continued on next page

Speaking for Myself continued

of ours, too,” says **Rosemary Free**, Linda’s mom. “She almost always orders the same thing — cheese-burger with fries.”

Members of the Free family have been visiting Linda since the mid-1950s and observed many changes.

“BSDC offers so many more activities and opportunities now than before,” says Linda’s mom. “Linda has a couple of jobs. The facility also helps clients to learn things like writing their name, using computers, and recreational and entertainment activities, both on campus and in the community.”

“Linda is also involved in campus Scouting, Special Olympics and the BSDC Bell Choir,” Rita chimes in.

“Whenever Linda comes back to Omaha with us, the first thing she wants to do is go shopping at West Roads,” adds mom. “She loves nothing better than to shop. As soon as we finish shopping, she

wants to eat out, and then go back for more shopping!”

According to Linda’s mother and sister, Linda has two families: her biological family and her BSDC family.

“Linda loves to come back to Omaha and has a grand time while there,” says her mom. “But by the

cafe. “They have great gab sessions and really enjoy each other. It reminds me of when my sisters and I get together.”

Linda Free’s smile might be the first thing one notices about her, but there’s much more to her than that. Behind that smile lies a



TOGETHER AGAIN: (l-r) Linda Free’s sister Rita and mother Rosemary join her for lunch on campus at Carstens Cafe. Her family visits the Center or takes Linda home to Omaha on a more-than-monthly basis. Photo: Jerry Crisp

end of the day, you can tell she’s ready to head back ‘home’ to Beatrice. We think that says a lot about the quality of life she enjoys there.”

“I always smile when I see Linda with her family in Carstens Cafe,” says Recreation Staff Assistant **Connie Mahloch**, whose desk is in the lobby just outside the

fun-loving, friendly, family-oriented person who likes to look on the bright side of things. One might have to dig very deeply indeed to find a better philosophy by which to live.

Former BSDC client moves closer to home in Norfolk

Vera DeBlauw is now served by Envisions and living in Norfolk, Nebraska, with two other women. Each has their own bedroom, and Vera has personalized hers with family photos and recently added new furniture to make it all her own.

“Vera makes her bed, helps cook meals and do laundry, and dusts around the house every day,” says Program Coordinator **Sara Gardner**. “Vera also enjoys shopping and helps get groceries on the weekend. She’s a joy to work with, and her happy disposition really makes the house a lot of fun.”

“I’m not surprised to hear that Vera still enjoys shopping,” says BSDC Social Worker **Lori Policky**. “She always worked very hard and enjoyed spending the money she earned on shopping trips with her friends during her years in Beatrice.”

The move from Beatrice to Norfolk also brings Vera closer to her family, and Vera enjoys being able to see more of her family. Her parents, **Dennis and Margaret DeBlauw**, and a sister and three brothers live in or near Hartington, and another sister lives in Wausau.

Vera’s mother **Margaret** is grateful for the “wonderful care” her daughter received at BSDC, but health problems make it difficult for her and her husband to travel now so she’s also happy Vera is closer to home.

“I’m glad that Vera was able to move closer to her family,” adds Policky. “She spoke of her family daily and looked forward to visits from family and friends, both at and away from BSDC.”

“I usually visit Vera once a week to take her swimming, to a



Vera DeBlauw
Photo: Joe Hintz

movie, or to shop and eat out, and she really looks forward to my visits,” says Vera’s sister, **Julie Kristensen**. “Now that she’s closer to home, our family was able to get together and have a birthday party for her, she’s been able to attend family reunions and holiday celebrations with us—all things we’ve rarely been able to do before.”

Communicating with people with disabilities

Communicating with people with disabilities can be a challenge for those who don’t face the same challenges. Some tips to make communicating more successful:

1. PHYSICAL DISABILITY:

When communicating with people who use a wheelchair, do not move or push their wheelchair without first asking if you can do so. Personal space includes a person’s wheelchair, crutch, cane or other mobility aid.

2. VISUAL DISABILITY:

Identify yourself when approaching a person who is visually impaired. If a new person approaches, introduce him or her.

3. HEARING DISABILITY:

Even if a person who is deaf or hard of hearing looks only at an interpreter and might not make eye contact with you during the conversation, talk directly to the person who is deaf or hard of hearing—not to an interpreter.

4. COGNITIVE DISABILITY:

Don’t pretend to understand if you do not. Ask the person to repeat what was said, as you would do with anyone else.

RELAX. If you don’t know what to do, allow the person who has a disability to put you at ease.

More tips in upcoming issues!

York citizen shows hard work is the stuff dreams are made of

*By **Deb McQuistan**
Developmental Disabilities
Services Coordinator
DHHS York office*

One of **Chester Groom's** goals has been to get his driver's license and a car.

Chester took driver's education class in 2003, just before his senior year in High School. He has worked very hard over the past

five years. Most recently he has worked with a private instructor through the Nebraska Safety Council, putting in two weeks of intensive training.

With a helping hand from Region V Services, Chester set aside some of his income to pay for the driver's training, and save for a car and six months of car insurance. In September 2008, after passing his driver's exam, he bought a 2005 silver Chevy Impala.

Chester's success doesn't stop

there. He was named Employee of the Month at the York Wal-Mart in November, where he has worked since 2007. He works about 25 hours a week taking care of shopping carts in the parking lot.

Chester also moved into his own apartment in 2007, and has been taking classes at the York Martial Arts Studio for several months. He recently earned his first sash in Krav Maga, a form of Israeli self-defense, and he's ready to test for the next level.



Chester Grooms poses proudly with his driver's license and new set of wheels, proof of the hard work he put into making his dreams come true.

*Photo:
Roni
Gabel*



Relay for *Life!*

Although thought by some as apart from the community, the Beatrice State Developmental Center is a very real part of the larger community. One of the ways Center citizens and employees give back to their community is by participating in the annual Relay for Life.

Sponsored by the American Cancer Society, Relay for Life offers communities an opportunity to take an active role in the fight against cancer. Since its inception in the mid-1980s, people from all walks of life have helped raise funds to combat the disease and raise awareness of cancer prevention and treatment in what has become the largest fund-raising event in history. Whether running around a high school track or pushing wheelchairs through the streets of a town, millions across the nation now come together for relays to celebrate the lives of those who battle cancer, remember those lost to the disease, and take action to eliminate the nation's second leading killer.

The BSDC Relay for Life team includes 48 clients, employees and community friends, several of whom are cancer survivors. The total BSDC teams raised for the American Cancer Society this year is nearly \$3,000—more than double the amount raised last year!

The individual raising the most this year was Center citizen **Gretchen Stauffer** (\$397), while the staff member raising most (\$586) was **Dianna Knoop**, who coordinated the event. The total raised in Gage County for Relay for Life was \$57,500!

"After **Fran Stegemann**, who previously helped coordinate BSDC participation in Relay for Life, lost her brave battle with cancer, I was concerned about how I was going to get it done without her," says Knoop. "Our success this year is a tribute to her and to everyone who pitched in to put us over the top."

Knoop has very personal reasons for her commitment to Relay for Life. Her 20-year-old daughter **Shawna** beat Hodgkin's Lymphoma at age 15, now in remission for five years, to become another cancer survivor.



(Above left) Center citizen Gretchen Stauffer was one of many BSDC clients participating in the Relay for Life event on May 1st and 2nd, raising the most funds for cancer research—\$397. With Gretchen are Relay for Life committee members Sherry Knapp of Lincoln and SueAnn Saathoff of Beatrice. (Above right) Shawna Knoop, daughter of BSDC Relay for Life coordinator Dianna Knoop, poses with JoAnn Hendrickson, another Center citizen who attended the Relay for Life activity to lend moral support. *Photos: Dianna Knoop*

Cancer survivors tell how they did it

As anyone who has won their battle against cancer will tell you, beating the disease isn't ever easy but possible and increasingly frequent. Their personal experiences offer hope and encouragement to others still battling the disease, as well as those who might some day face that same challenge.



Bobbie Hudson

Developmental Technician III **Bobbie Hudson** considers cancer a family affair. So many of her family members have one form or another that they participating in a research study with Creighton Universeity in Omaha. And it was also family who helped her through her bout with breast cancer.

"I sat my kids down and told the truth," she explains. "I told them I would have good days and bad through surgery and chemotherapy but that I'd still go to their ballgames and activities whenever I could, and when I couldn't, I'd see that another family member did. I also said that we'd work through it together and that I would live."

Bobbie's words proved prophetic, because her kids helped out, worked together, and she's now in remission, proving that a strong will and strong family ties are key to cancer. Her advice to others who get cancer or think they might—"Talk to your doctor, count on WIC for screenings if you're concerned about finances, and call on your family to help see you through."



Ron Vogle

Not a hospital patient since his tonsils were removed in childhood, Facility Maintenance Supervisor **Ron Vogle** braved the bad news about leukemia, underwent chemo, and got better. So much better that he almost didn't go in for his final blood test. When he finally did, more bad news—leukemia had returned. But they caught it early, and with more chemo came remission.

"I consider myself as always being in remission rather than cured, but I don't believe cancer will kill me," says Ron. "I wanted to be around to see my kids get married, and I did, and I want to watch my grandchildren grow, and I'm doing it."

Although he wouldn't recommend cancer for anyone, leukemia gave Ron a deeper appreciation of life, family, friends and co-workers.

"Everything becomes more precious to you...even work," he says. "Now I'm up at 5:00 a.m. and eager to get there."

His advice to others in the same boat is to keep their sense of humor. "At the outset, you laugh to keep from crying, but in the long run, humor helps keep things in perspective."



Marilyn Taylor

For Developmental Technician II **Marilyn Taylor**, cancer came as something of a surprise.

"I went to the VA hospital in Lincoln for my annual checkup, and they found that my thyroid gland was enlarged," she explains.

When further tests revealed cancer, an operation to remove her thyroid left Marilyn cancer-free with a very good prognosis.

That's what made Marilyn a strong advocate for combating cancer by catching it early.

"Knowing I caught it early is what helped me get through my experience with cancer," Marilyn says. "The threat of cancer or a cancer diagnosis can be very scary, but your chances of beating it increase dramatically if it's caught early, so see your doctor and take those tests!"

When good advice is given, wise people listen and respond.

Photos: Jerry Crisp

To learn more about Relay for Life, go to www.relayforlife.org/relay.
For more information about cancer, go to <http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/NebraskaCARES>.

Center employees earn **AERO** Awards

Appreciation of one's efforts by supervisors is always nice, but recognition by one's peers is sometimes harder to earn. Supervisors may be well aware of an employee's strengths, but who knows an employee better than a co-worker who works alongside?

Sixty Center employees nominated by their peers for "Awesome Employee Recognition Opportunities" (AERO) can testify to that. Ten of these were honored at the Beatrice Area Chamber Business Awards Luncheon in April. Selections were made by the BSDC Employee Incentives and Recognition Committee.

Among the top ten is Developmental Technician III **Aaron Bales**, described by a nominator as "willing to help wherever help is needed, positive and caring."

Another top ten honoree is Training Specialist **Judie Braun**, admired for "her brilliant mind... keeping classes upbeat and interesting...and advocating for individuals and for staff as well."

Another making the cut is Facility Maintenance Specialist **Bob Bruhn**, whose nominator says "responds immediately when called upon and considers no job too big or too small when it involves helping clients or co-workers."

Also singled out is Developmental Technician III **Katie Burgess**, described by those who know her best as "kind and gentle with the seasoned leadership essential to bring BSDC through current trials."



AERO Award winners (l-r) Janet Trout, Deb Swoboda, Bob Bruhn, Bill Clark, Aaron Bales, Joe Johnson, Judie Braun, Pam Spier-Edmond, RoJane Meyer and Katie Burgess. (Not shown: Karla Bryant, Andrea Gregory, Connie Mahloch, Brandon Shelby, Shari Swett, Cary Udell and Diane Waltke) Photo: Kathy Diekman

Treatment Specialist **Joe Johnson**, valued as "a great team player with many skills, and affectionately known as 'Mr. Smooth'."

Cited as well is Business Manager **RoJane Meyer**, "a dedicated employee of 40+ years and outstanding manager who is a good friend and inspiration to all."

Making the top ten cut is the entire Recreation Department, comprised of **Karla Bryant, Bill Clark, Andrea Gregory, Connie Mahloch, Brandon Shelby, Deb Swoboda, Cary Udall and Diane Waltke**. This versatile, creative crew was hailed by a nominator as "committed, keeping the interests and integrity of individuals served as their focus, and being strong advocates."

Pam Spier-Edmond, Neighborhood Services Assistant Administrator, is also an AERO Award

winner for being "a great leader who goes above and beyond and works long hours to ensure the best outcome for all."

Another AERO Award winner is Developmental Technician II **Shari Swett**, admired by her co-workers for "her caring attitude, not being afraid of hard work and always putting clients first."

Rounding out the top 10 is Health Information Manager **Janet Trout**, looked up to for "showing patience and caring, being calm under intense pressure, and filling in all the gaps."

Ryan Broker, Personnel Officer and Orientation Facilitator who heads the Employee Incentives and Recognition Committee, described the enthusiastic response to a call for AERO nominations as "indicative of a great level of spirit still and forever present at BSDC!"

at a glance



**"Getting to know you, getting to know all about you;
Getting to like you, getting to hope you like me..."**

These lines from Rogers and Hammerstein's musical, "The King and I," capture the aim of the second meeting of the BSDC "Red Hat Society" chapter. Clients attending participated in an "All About Me" activity, creating picture and small item collages then shared with the group to help them all get better acquainted.

"It wasn't exactly an 'ice-breaker' because most of these ladies have known each other for a long time already," says Human Services Treatment Specialist **Pat Sookram**, shown here with Red Hat Society member **Claudia Rafferty**. "The goal at this particular get-together was to enhance existing friendships and encourage new ones."

Among scheduled activities for future meetings are a "Makeup Night," "Fancy Tea Tasting," and a "Spring Bling" event focused on jewelry, and "Scrapbooking." *Photo: Jerry Crisp*

When BSDC employees help individuals with developmental disabilities live better lives...

Facility Faces

...then Center services and Center service providers become one and the same.

Jesse Bjerrum has been a BSDC Home Manager for four years and says, "I've been privileged to work in several campus homes, and all of my experiences have been good."

In addition to his regular duties, Jesse enjoys extracurricular activities that enhance the quality of clients' lives. "I enjoy taking individuals out on personalized fishing trips to catch lots of fish...and bigger fish," he says.

Jesse's most interesting experience on the job was conducting a TV news crew around campus.

"The reporter said that before they arrived, they expected to find awful conditions," Jesse reports. "After seeing for themselves, they felt they had a clearer picture of services and opportunities here."

Jesse tries his best "to make a real difference in clients' lives. Regardless of what others might say, BSDC has made several positive changes in the lives of folks who call BSDC home."

Although Jesse Bjerrum has only been on the job a short while, he has already become the typical Center employee who does his best to help other people live better lives and takes pride in working at a facility that exists for that purpose.

